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SHOGUN WARRIORS

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From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Dangard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Hongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

THE CIRCLE'S END

ABOARD THE STARCRUISER NIGHTWIND, CAPTAIN CYMELL STUDIES A HOLOGRAM DISPLAY OF ROBOT TITANS... AND WHEN SHE SPEAKS, HER VOICE IS DRAWN FROM THE WELL OF MELANCHOLY...
THE SHOGUN WARRIORS, SH'BLEEN-- GIANTS OF A TECHNOLOGY WHICH THE PRIMAL ONE SEEKS TO DESTROY...
... AND WHICH WE MUST DESTROY CAPTAIN CYMELL.
YES, SUMMONED BY THE PRIMAL ONE -- BY A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE CHARTER-- WE ARE BOUND BY CHARTER RULES TO ASSIST HIM IN ANY WAY WE CAN.
AND SO I OBEY HIS REQUESTS... BUT I LIKE IT NOT.

DOUG MOENCH / WRITER — HERB TRIMPE / ARTIST — JIM NOVAK / LETTERER — GAFF / COLORIST — LOUISE JONES / EDITOR — JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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DWARFING THE PRIMAL ONE'S SPACE STATION, THE NIGHTWIND HOVERS IN THE SOUNDLESS DARK, STILL MAJESTIC THOUGH LACKING ITS MAIN COMPONENT...

THE PRIMAL ONE HAS TAKEN GIGANTAURON--NIGHTWIND'S VERY BACKBONE--TO EARTH ON HIS DEED OF DESTRUCTION... AND I FEEL ONLY SHAME FOR MYSELF AND MY SHIP.

I BECAME A STARCRUISER CAPTAIN BECAUSE I WISHED TO EXPLORE VAST MYSTERIES, TO SEEK WONDERS AT THE HEART OF THE UNKNOWN...

...BUT NOW, AND ALL TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST, I FIND MYSELF REDUCED TO THE ROLE OF A POLICE ENFORCER, DENYING THOSE WONDERS TO OTHERS.

IT... PAINS ME.

I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE PRIMAL ONE AND GIGANTAURON COMPLETE THEIR MISSION QUICKLY, THAT WE MAY TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR. AGAIN I SAY: I LIKE IT N--!

WH-WHAT?!

IT IS THE **PRIMAL ONE**, CAPTAIN CYMELL--RETURNING WITHOUT GIGANTAURON!

GIGANTAURON HAS FAILED-- DEFEATED BY BUT **ONE** OF THE SHOGUN WARRIORS AND THE TERRANS KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR. *

WHAT?! YOU **ABANDONED** GIGANTAURON?!

YOUR ESTIMATION OF ITS POWER WAS GREATLY EXAGGERATED. IT FAILED.

*LAST ISSUE, --LOUIGE.

YOU! FAILED! NO MACHINE CAN TRANSCEND ITS OPERATOR! AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXAGGERATE GIGANTAURON'S IMPORTANCE--!

IT IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUNCTION OF THE NIGHTWIND ITSELF! IT MUST BE RETURNED!

LEAVE IT, CYMELL, SURELY THERE ARE OTHER WEAPONS IN NIGHTWIND'S ARSENAL CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE SHOGUN WARRIORS.

NO! I WILL NOT-- **CANNOT**-- ABANDON GIGANTAURON!

BUT THE RULES--! THE INTERGALACTIC CHARTER STATES THAT YOU MUST OBEY--

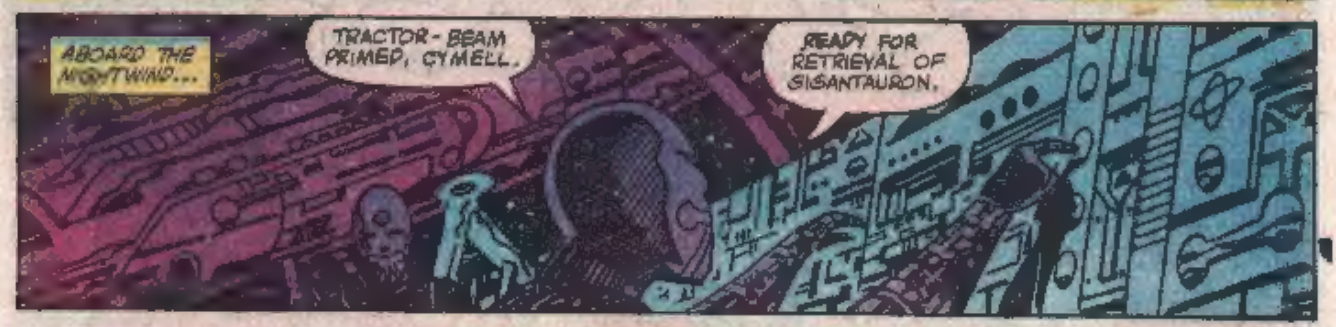
THE CHARTER BE DAMNED!

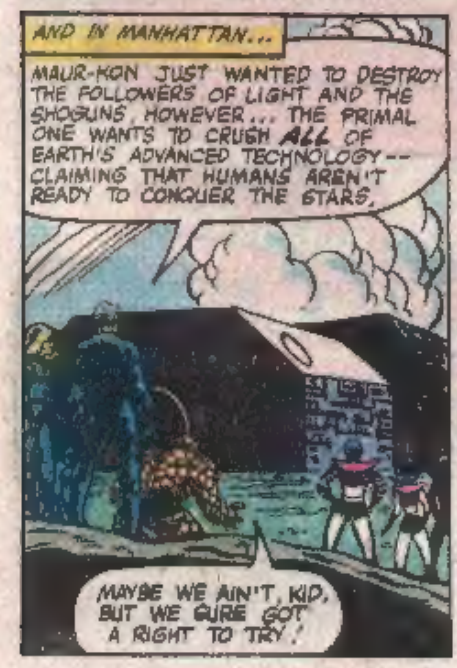
TRACTOR-BEAM CREW: LOCATE AND LOCK MAGNETIC FIX ON OUR MISSING COMPONENT...

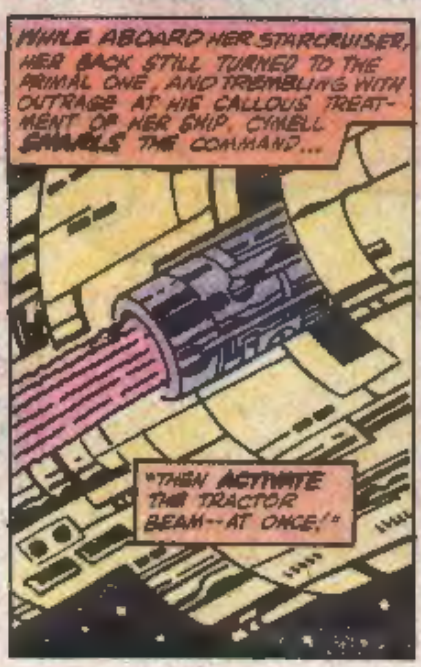
"...AND PREPARE TO RETRIEVE GIGANTAURON IMMEDIATELY!"
IT LIES IN THE BAY OFF MANHATTAN, A HUGE PORTION OF THE NIGHTWIND'S HULL CONVERTED TO ITS OPERATIONAL MODE OF GIGANTAURON... NOW A FELLED GIANT.

SEVEN HUMANS CLUSTER AROUND COMBATRA, SHAKING OFF THE EFFECTS OF A DEBACLE. FOUR OF THEM ARE FANTASTIC--REED RICHARDS (MR. FANTASTIC), SUE RICHARDS (THE INVISIBLE GIRL), BEN GRIMM (THE THING), AND JOHNNY STORM (THE HUMAN TORCH). THE OTHER THREE ARE THE SHOGUN OPERATORS RICHARD CARSON, ILONGO SAVAGE, AND GENJI ODASHU.
I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE, SON. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING MENACES LIKE THIS?
EVER SINCE THE SORCERER/SCIENTIST, MAUR-KON, AWAKENED TO RESUME THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE OF HIS KIND AGAINST THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT. THE FOLLOWERS MADE US THEIR AGENTS, GAVE US THE SHOGUN ROBOTS, AND WE'VE BEEN SQUARING OFF EVER SINCE.

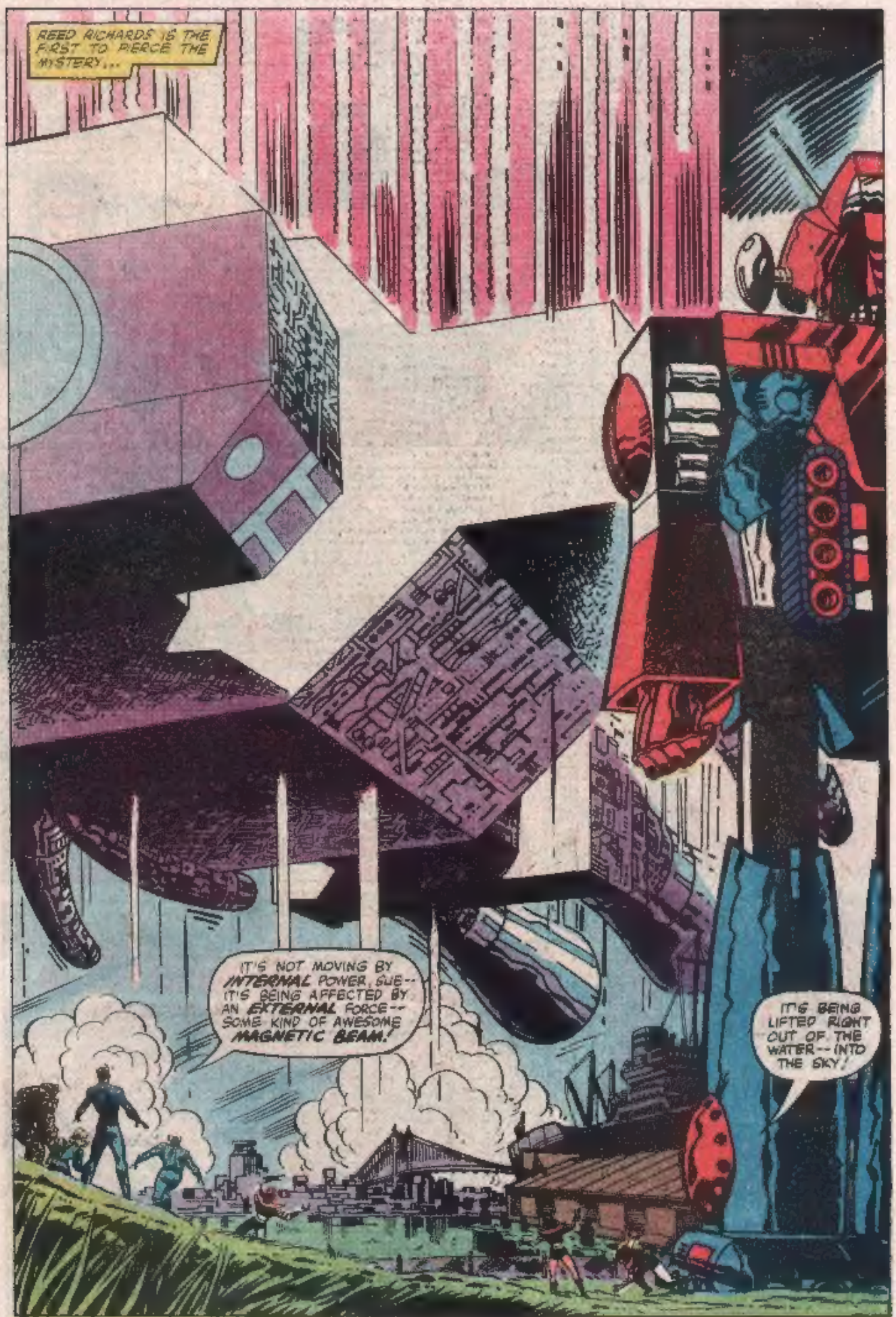
THIS "PRIMAL ONE" IS ONLY THE LATEST--BUT HE'S A LOT LIKE MAUR-KON--AN ENTITY OF TOTAL EVIL DEVOTED TO CRUSHING US. AND DON'T FORGET IT WAS THE "PRIMAL ONE" WHO SUCCEEDED WHERE MAUR-KON FAILED--IN KILLING THE FOLLOWERS.
SOUNDS LIKE A REG'LAR SWEETIE TA ME.


ABOARD THE NIGHTWIND...
TRACTOR-BEAM PRIMED, CYMELL.
READY FOR RETRIEVAL OF GIGANTAURON.

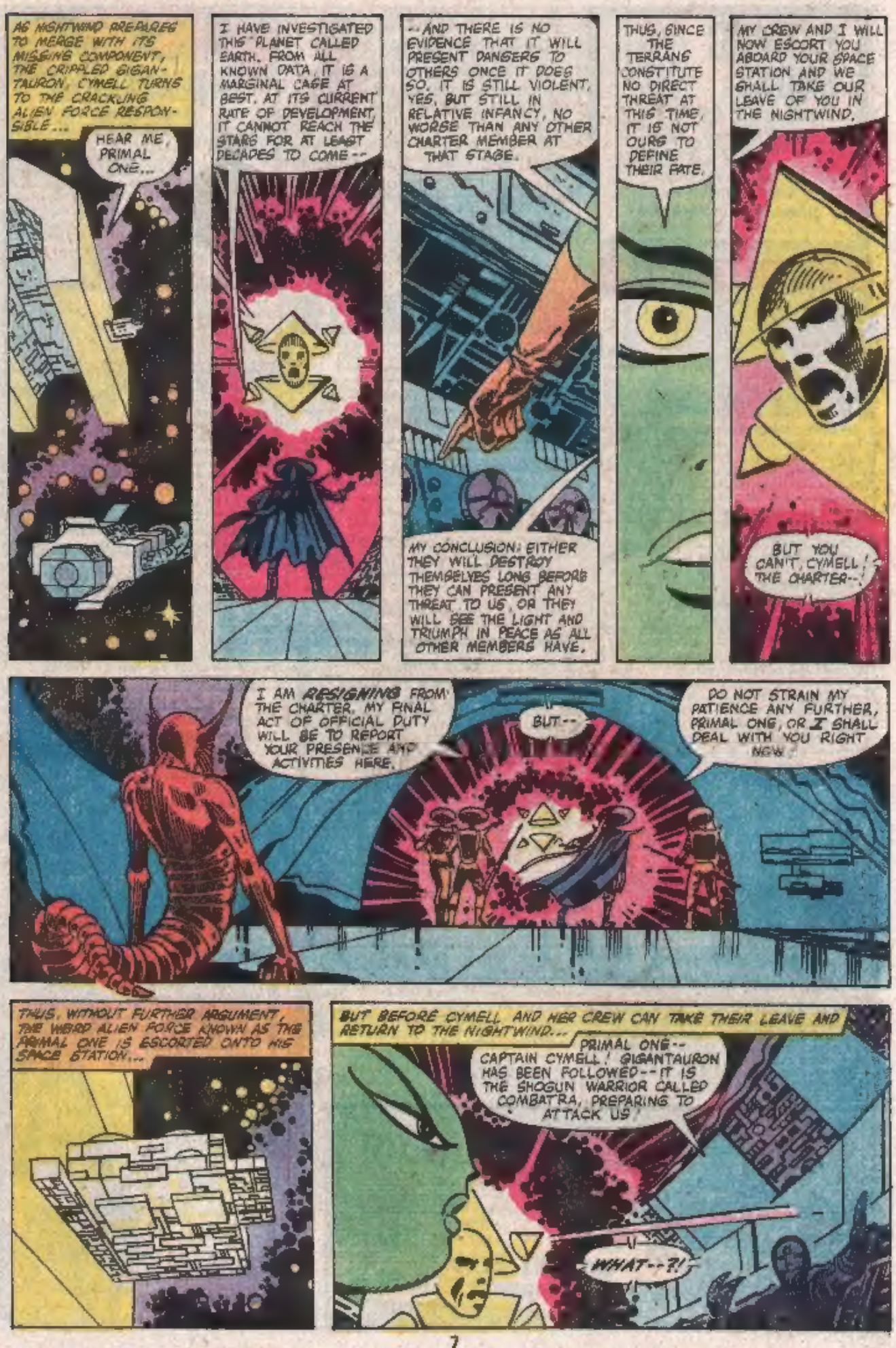

AND IN MANHATTAN...
MAUR-KON JUST WANTED TO DESTROY THE FOLLOWERS OF LIGHT AND THE SHOGUNS, HOWEVER... THE PRIMAL ONE WANTS TO CRUSH ALL OF EARTH'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY--CLAIMING THAT HUMANS AREN'T READY TO CONQUER THE STARS.
MAYBE WE AIN'T, KID, BUT WE SURE GOT A RIGHT TO TRY!

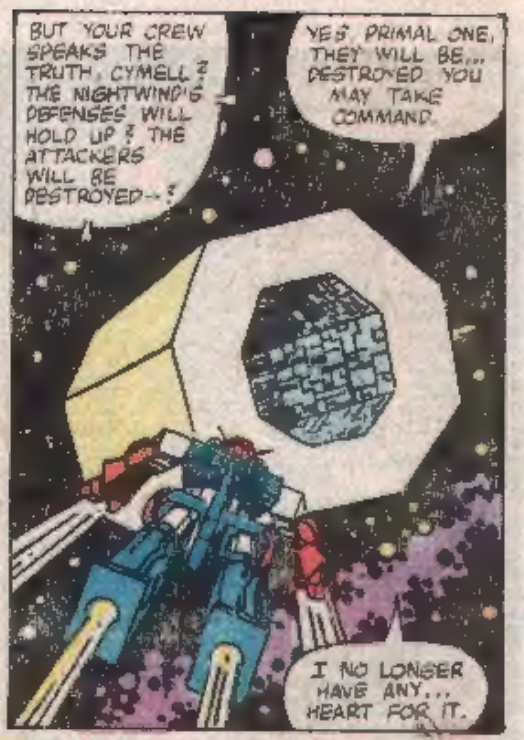

WHILE ABOARD HER STARCRUISER, HER BACK STILL TURNED TO THE PRIMAL ONE, AND TREMBLING WITH OUTRAGE AT HIS CALLOUS TREATMENT OF HER SHIP, CYMELL SIGNALS THE COMMAND...
"THEN ACTIVATE THE TRACTOR BEAM--AT ONCE!"

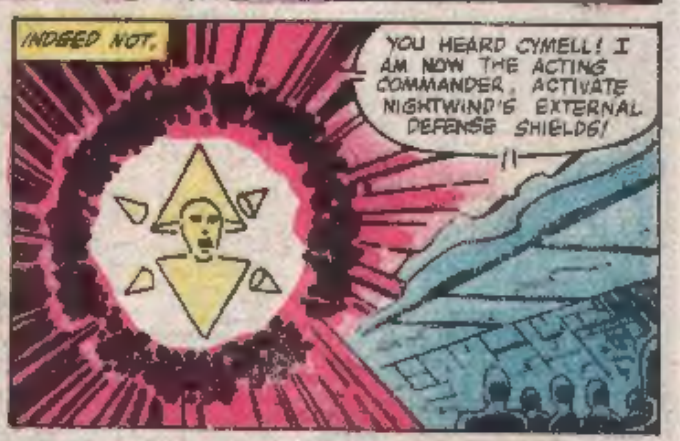
SUDDENLY...
HEY, LOOK! GIGANTAURON IS MOVING!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JOHNNY! BUT HOW--?! WE COMPLETELY DESTROYED ITS INTERNAL POWER SOURCE!

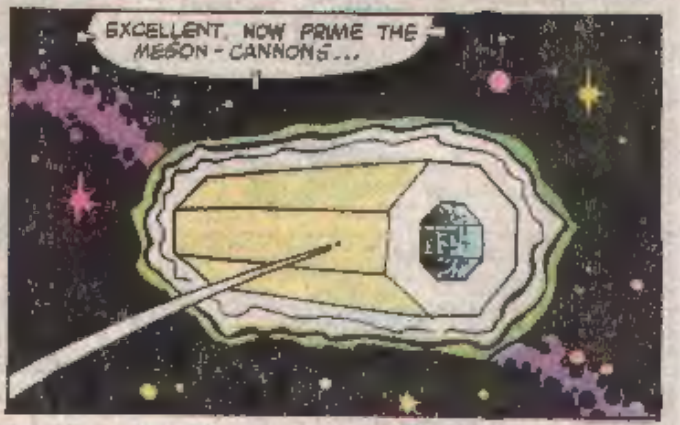

REED RICHARDS IS THE FIRST TO PIERCE THE MYSTERY...
IT'S NOT MOVING BY INTERNAL POWER, SUE-- IT'S BEING AFFECTED BY AN EXTERNAL FORCE-- SOME KIND OF AWESOME MAGNETIC BEAM!
IT'S BEING LIFTED RIGHT OUT OF THE WATER--INTO THE SKY!

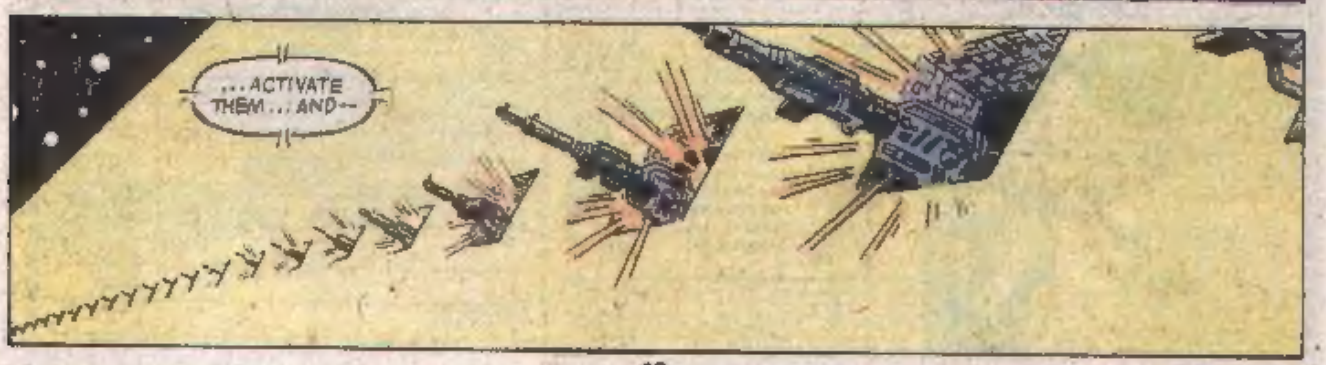
AND THEN--
SKY NUTHIN'--THE GIANT TIN CAN'S BEIN' YANKED RIGHT INTA THE BLAMED STRATOSPHERE!
EVERYONE INTO COMBATRA--QUICK--WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW IT!
IT MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO TRACE THE PRIMAL ONE TO ITS HOME-BASE!
A MOMENT OF SILENT HESITATION. THEN...
WELL, HOW 'BOUT IT, STRETCH? ARE WE HITCHIN' A RIDE IN THEIR BLAMED ROBOT OR NOT?
IT'S RISKY, BEN--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE MIGHT ENCOUNTER.
BUT THE SITUATION DEMANDS A SNAP DECISION...
...AND INASMUCH AS ILONGO SAVAGE IS PROBABLY RIGHT, I SAY... YES!
THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR? LET'S GET THIS BLASTED EVER-LOVIN' SHOW ON THE ROAD!
THE SHIMMER-TUBE ACTIVATES, LIFTING ALL SEVEN--
--UP INTO THE CONTROL COCKPIT IN COMBATRA'S HEAD.
EVERYONE ABOARD?
ROGER, GEN.T--TAKE HER AWAY!
SCREEEEE
OOOOOOOOM!
AND EVEN MILES AWAY, IN THE HEART OF BROOKLYN, THE TITAN'S PASSAGE IS KNOWN...
A STRIKE--?!
BOWL WORLD
BUT I AIN'T EVEN ROLLED THE BALL YET!

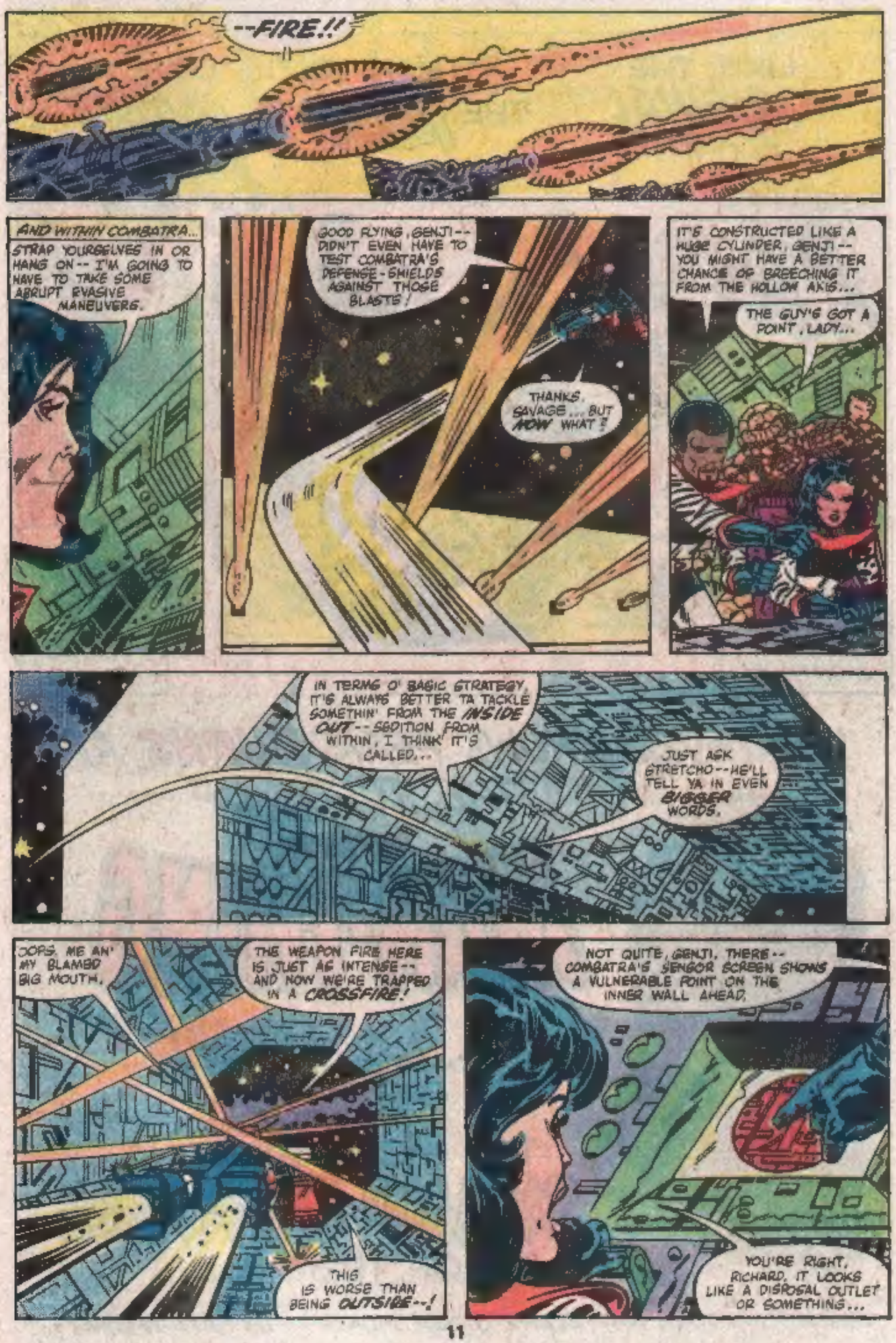

AS NIGHTWIND PREPARES TO MERGE WITH ITS MISSING COMPONENT, THE CRIPPLED GIGANTAURON, CYMELL TURNS TO THE CRACKLING ALIEN FORCE RESPONSIBLE...
HEAR ME, PRIMAL ONE...
I HAVE INVESTIGATED THIS PLANET CALLED EARTH. FROM ALL KNOWN DATA, IT IS A MARGINAL CASE AT BEST. AT ITS CURRENT RATE OF DEVELOPMENT, IT CANNOT REACH THE STARS FOR AT LEAST DECADES TO COME--
--AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT WILL PRESENT DANGERS TO OTHERS ONCE IT DOES SO. IT IS STILL VIOLENT, YES, BUT STILL IN RELATIVE INFANCY, NO WORSE THAN ANY OTHER CHARTER MEMBER AT THAT STAGE.
MY CONCLUSION: EITHER THEY WILL DESTROY THEMSELVES LONG BEFORE THEY CAN PRESENT ANY THREAT TO US, OR THEY WILL SEE THE LIGHT AND TRIUMPH IN PEACE AS ALL OTHER MEMBERS HAVE.
THUS, SINCE THE TERRANS CONSTITUTE NO DIRECT THREAT AT THIS TIME, IT IS NOT OURS TO DEFINE THEIR FATE.
MY CREW AND I WILL NOW ESCORT YOU ABOARD YOUR SPACE STATION AND WE SHALL TAKE OUR LEAVE OF YOU IN THE NIGHTWIND.
BUT YOU CAN'T, CYMELL! THE CHARTER--!
I AM RESIGNING FROM THE CHARTER. MY FINAL ACT OF OFFICIAL DUTY WILL BE TO REPORT YOUR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES HERE.
BUT--
DO NOT STRAIN MY PATIENCE ANY FURTHER, PRIMAL ONE, OR I SHALL DEAL WITH YOU RIGHT NOW!
THUS, WITHOUT FURTHER ARGUMENT, THE WEIRD ALIEN FORCE KNOWN AS THE PRIMAL ONE IS ESCORTED ONTO HIS SPACE STATION...
BUT BEFORE CYMELL AND HER CREW CAN TAKE THEIR LEAVE AND RETURN TO THE NIGHTWIND...
PRIMAL ONE-- CAPTAIN CYMELL! GIGANTAURON HAS BEEN FOLLOWED--IT IS THE SHOGUN WARRIOR CALLED COMBATRA, PREPARING TO ATTACK US!
WHAT--?!

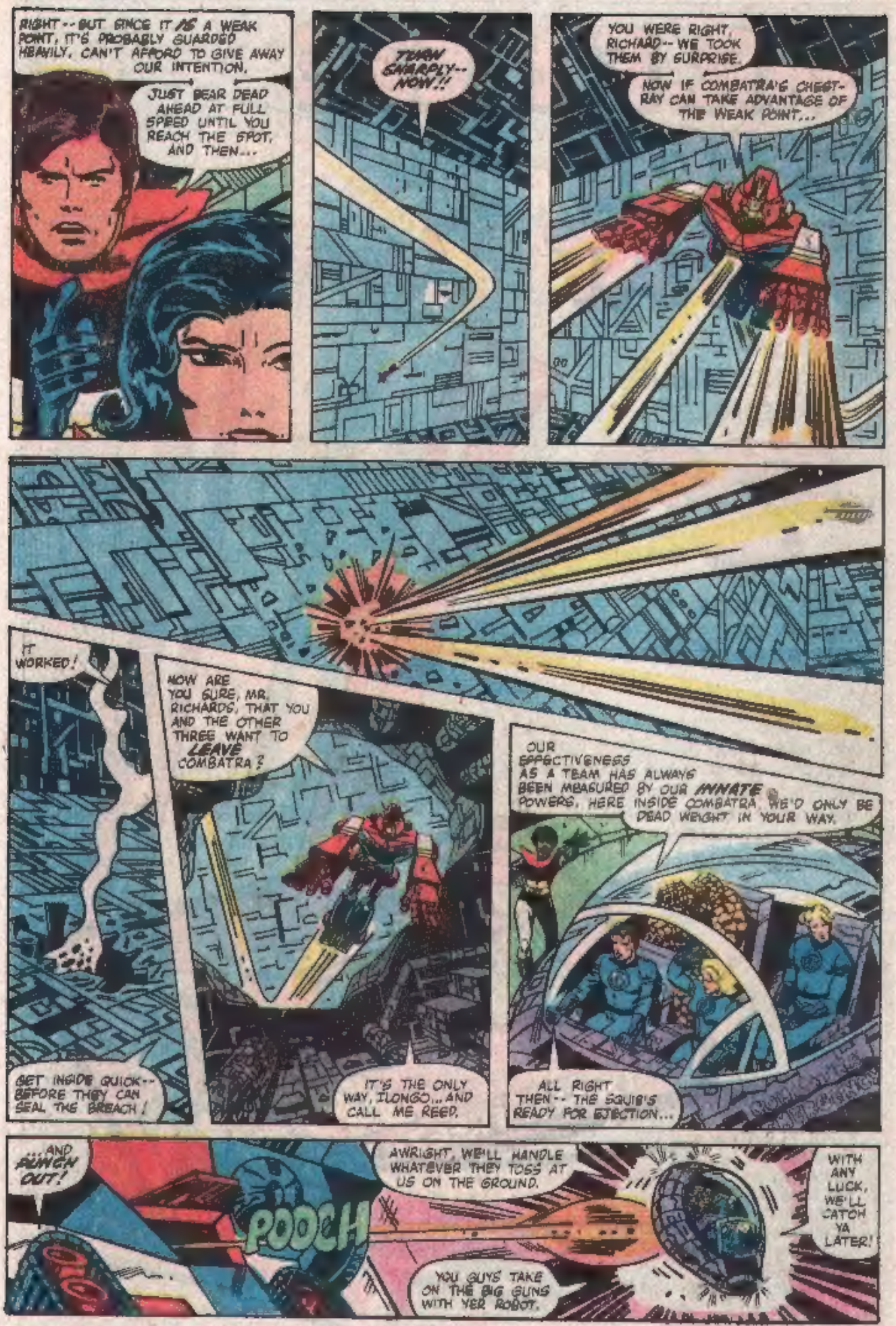






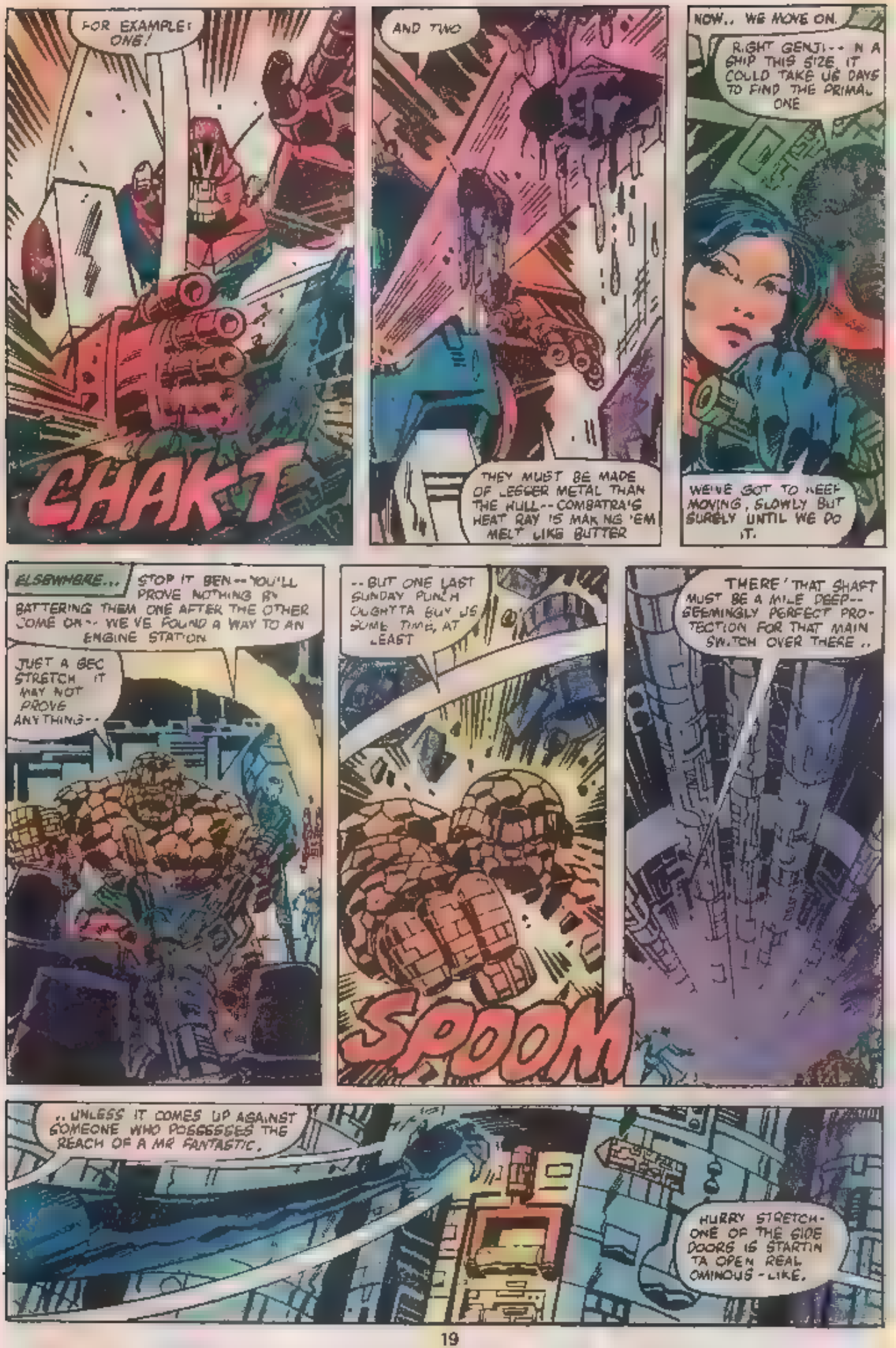

...ACTIVATE THEM... AND--
YYYY


--FIRE!!
AND WITHIN COMBATRA...
STRAP YOURSELVES IN OR HANG ON-- I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE SOME ABRUPT EVASIVE MANEUVERS.
GOOD FLYING, GENJI-- DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO TEST COMBATRA'S DEFENSE-SHIELDS AGAINST THOSE BLASTS!
THANKS, SAVAGE... BUT NOW WHAT?
IT'S CONSTRUCTED LIKE A HUGE CYLINDER, GENJI-- YOU MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF BREECHING IT FROM THE HOLLOW AXIS...
THE GUY'S GOT A POINT, LADY...
IN TERMS O' BASIC STRATEGY, IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TA TACKLE SOMETHIN' FROM THE INSIDE OUT-- SEDITION FROM WITHIN, I THINK IT'S CALLED...
JUST ASK STRETCHO--HE'LL TELL YA IN EVEN BIGGER WORDS.
OOPS. ME AN' MY BLAMED BIG MOUTH.
THE WEAPON FIRE HERE IS JUST AS INTENSE-- AND NOW WE'RE TRAPPED IN A CROSSFIRE!
THIS IS WORSE THAN BEING OUTSIDE--!
NOT QUITE, GENJI. THERE-- COMBATRA'S SENSOR SCREEN SHOWS A VULNERABLE POINT ON THE INNER WALL AHEAD.
YOU'RE RIGHT, RICHARD. IT LOOKS LIKE A DISPOSAL OUTLET OR SOMETHING...


RIGHT--BUT SINCE IT IS A WEAK POINT, IT'S PROBABLY GUARDED HEAVILY. CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE AWAY OUR INTENTION.
JUST BEAR DEAD AHEAD AT FULL SPEED UNTIL YOU REACH THE SPOT, AND THEN...
TURN SHARPLY--NOW!!
YOU WERE RIGHT, RICHARD--WE TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE.
NOW IF COMBATRA'S CHEETAH RAY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK POINT...
IT WORKED!
GET INSIDE QUICK--BEFORE THEY CAN SEAL THE BREACH!
NOW ARE YOU SURE, MR. RICHARDS, THAT YOU AND THE OTHER THREE WANT TO LEAVE COMBATRA?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, ILONGO... AND CALL ME REED.
OUR EFFECTIVENESS AS A TEAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN MEASURED BY OUR INNATE POWERS. HERE INSIDE COMBATRA, WE'D ONLY BE DEAD WEIGHT IN YOUR WAY.
ALL RIGHT THEN--THE SQUIB'S READY FOR EJECTION...
AND PUNCH OUT!
POOCH
AWRIGHT, WE'LL HANDLE WHATEVER THEY TOSS AT US ON THE GROUND.
YOU GUYS TAKE ON THE BIG GUNS WITH YER ROBOT.
WITH ANY LUCK, WE'LL CATCH YA LATER!

MEANWHILE..
THE BREACH IN NIGHTWIND'S HULL HAS BEEN SEALED AND THE AIRLOCK SECURED
ENTER THE SECTOR AND SUPPORT THE AUTOMATIC DEFENSES WITH SMALL ARMS. THE INVADERS MUST BE DESTROYED!
SOON, THE ANIMAL ONE'S ARMY OF OBEDIENT DRONES SWARMS THROUGH THE NIGHTWIND'S LABYRINTH OF CORRIDORS AND DUCTS, ALL CONVERGING ON THE POINT OF PENETRATION. SIGNIFICANTLY, NONE OF CYMELL'S CREW IS AMONG THEM..
THERE! THE INVADERS ARE JUST AHEAD!
WELL THEY AIN'T LAGGARDS THAT'S FER SURE
TOMMY SEE IF YOU CAN'T DISCOURAGE THEIR ADVANCE WITH A LITTLE HEAT...
GOTCHA REED
FLAME ON!!
WHOOM
BEN TEAM UP WITH ME TO ELIMINATE THIS CANNON.
KUH-CHOOM
I'LL TAKE OUT THE OPERATOR WHILE YOU..
SAVE IT, STRETCH I DON'T NEED YOU TA TELL ME WHEN IT'S--
CLOBBERIN' TIME!
SKRUNCH

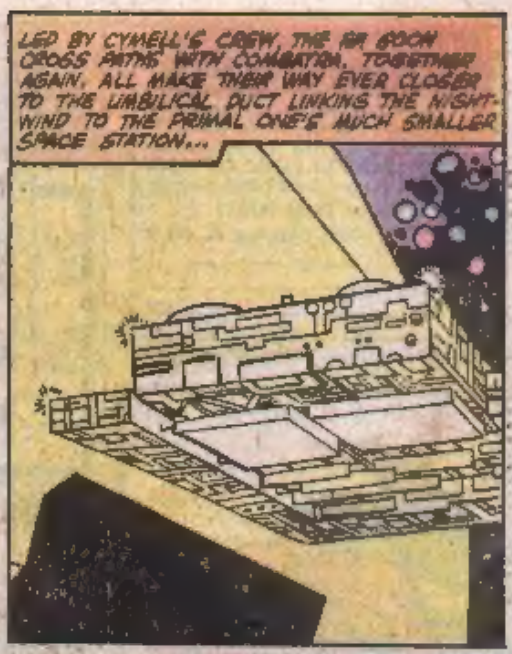
AND MEANWHILE BACK IN COMBATRA
HEADS UP GENJI LOOKS LIKE WE'VE DRAWN A GREETING PARTY
I SEE THEM RICHARD
APPARENTLY A FLOTILLA OF HEAT-SEEKING DESTROYERS. I THOUGHT WE'D JUST WEATHER THE FIRST FUSILLADE ..
.. AND THEN WHILE THEY'RE PREOCCUPIED WE'LL LAUNCH--
-- COMBATRA'S ROCKET-FIST!
KROOM
BUT THEN AS THE ROCKET-FIST AUTOMATICALLY RETURNS ..
TOOK OUT A FEW BUT THERE'RE STILL PLENTY MORE!
YEAH. AND NOW THEY'RE BEING JOINED BY GROUND SUPPORT
.. WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO RESORT TO A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED ONE-TWO COMBINATION...


FOR EXAMPLE: ONE!
CHAK!
AND TWO
THEY MUST BE MADE OF LESSER METAL THAN THE HULL--COMBATRA'S HEAT RAY IS MAKING 'EM MELT LIKE BUTTER
NOW.. WE MOVE ON.
RIGHT GENJI-- IN A SHIP THIS SIZE IT COULD TAKE US DAYS TO FIND THE PRIMAL ONE
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING, SLOWLY BUT SURELY UNTIL WE DO IT.
ELSEWHERE...
STOP IT BEN-- YOU'LL PROVE NOTHING BY BATTERING THEM ONE AFTER THE OTHER COME ON-- WE'VE FOUND A WAY TO AN ENGINE STATION
JUST A SEC STRETCH IT MAY NOT PROVE ANYTHING--
--BUT ONE LAST SUNDAY PUNCH OUGHTTA GUY US SOME TIME, AT LEAST
SPOOM
THERE' THAT SHAFT MUST BE A MILE DEEP-- SEEMINGLY PERFECT PROTECTION FOR THAT MAIN SWITCH OVER THERE..
..UNLESS IT COMES UP AGAINST SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES THE REACH OF A MR FANTASTIC.
HURRY STRETCH- ONE OF THE SIDE DOORS IS STARTIN TA OPEN REAL OMINOUS-LIKE.

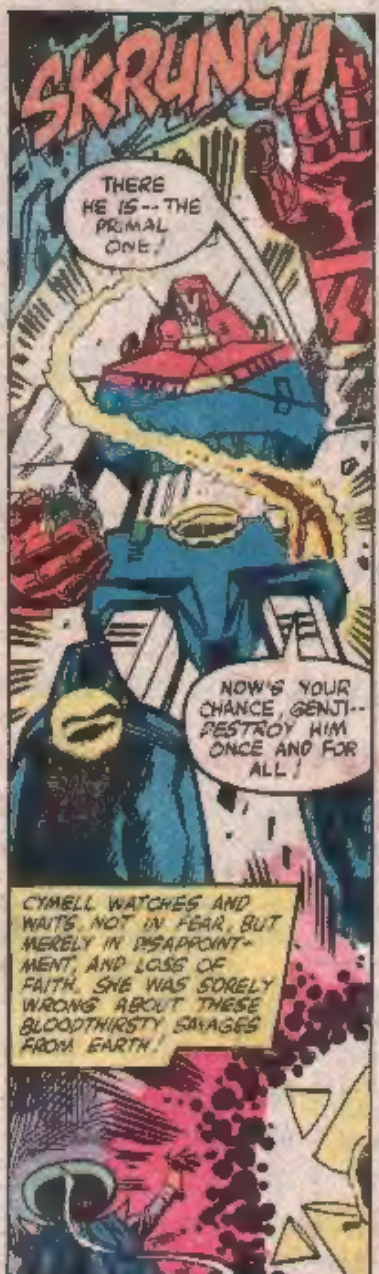
REED LOOK OUT
CAN'T STOP NOW SUE! WHATEVER IT IS, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO PROTECT ME!
BEN! MY INVISIBLE FORCE-SHIELD IS STOPPING THAT THING'S BLASTS-- BUT I CAN'T SUSTAIN IT MUCH LONGER
SAY NO MORE SUE!E
WHEN YOU'RE THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED THING, YER FIST'S ALWAYS PACKED WITH ONE LAST OUNCE O CLOBBERIN' POWER!
BLAM
GOT IT NOW TO SEE IF--
BUT JUST THEN THREE OF CYMELL'S CREW BURST IN
STOP! IF YOU CLOSE THAT SWITCH--
--THE ENTIRE SHIP WILL SELF-DESTRUCT!
WHICH IS JUST WHAT I WANT IT TO DO FRIEND. UNLESS YOU TAKE US TO YOUR LEADER-- THE ALIEN FORCE.
THE "PRIMAL ONE".
WELL? I'M WAITING. DO I CLOSE THE SWITCH OR--
NO STAY YOUR HAND THE PRIMAL ONE IS NOT OUR LEADER.
BUT WE SHALL TAKE YOU TO HIM

GOOD. THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
REED RETURNS THE SWITCH TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION--AS HE WOULD HAVE DONE IN EITHER CASE.

NOW LET'S GO.
VERY WELL, TERRAN... FOLLOW US.


LED BY CYMELL'S CREW, THE RIGHT GOON CROSS PATHS WITH COMBATRA, TOGETHER AGAIN, ALL MAKE THEIR WAY EVER CLOSER TO THE UMBILICAL DUCT LINKING THE NIGHTWIND TO THE PRIMAL ONE'S MUCH SMALLER SPACE STATION...

...WHERE CYMELL, HER CREW, AND THE PRIMAL ONE HIMSELF NOW AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE ALREADY CONCLUDED.
AGAIN YOU HAVE EXAGGERATED THE POWER OF YOUR VAUNTED NIGHTWIND CYMELL. THUS PAN-ALL DEFENSE SYSTEMS HAVE FAILED. AND NOW--


SKRUNCH
THERE HE IS--THE PRIMAL ONE!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, GENJI--DESTROY HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
CYMELL WATCHES AND WAITS, NOT IN FEAR, BUT MERELY IN DISAPPOINTMENT, AND LOSS OF FAITH. SHE WAS SORELY WRONG ABOUT THESE BLOODTHIRSTY SAVAGES FROM EARTH!

REED, IT... IT SEEMS SO EVIL. WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW, SUE... PERHAPS A BEING OF PURE ENERGY...

WHATEVER THE MALEVOLENT FORCE IS, COMBATRA DRAWS A POINT BLANK BEAD ON IT...

...AND, IF NOTHING ELSE, THE PRIMAL ONE SEEMS DOOMED.
NO! HELP ME, CYMELL--TELL YOUR CREW TO SAVE ME!

BUT CYMELL DOES NOT MOVE, FOR--
GENTI'S HESITATING... AND I SEE WHY. THE PRIMAL ONE IS INHUMAN, IMPOSSIBLE TO RELATE TO, BUT IT'S STILL A FORM OF... LIFE.

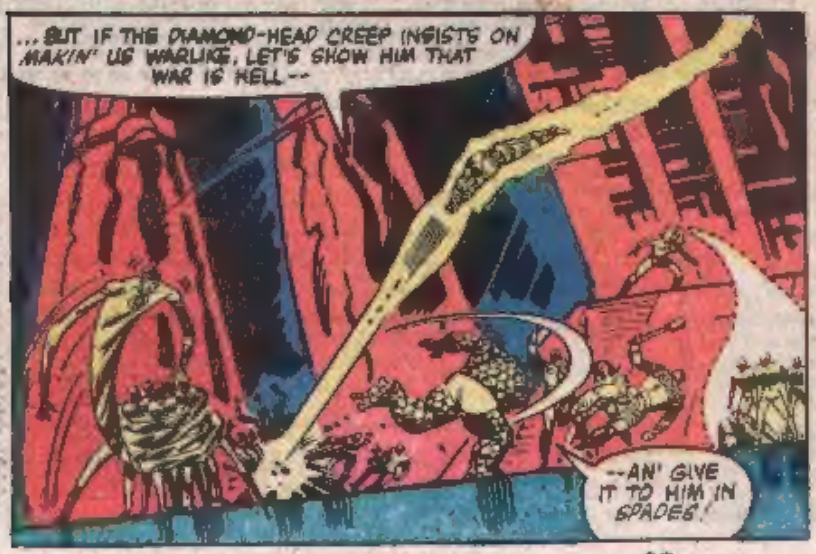
NO MATTER WHAT IT'S DONE OR PLANS TO DO, I... I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT... CAN'T JUST KILL IT.
CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE US ALONE--? LEAVE US IN PEACE--SO WE CAN LEAVE YOU IN PEACE--!

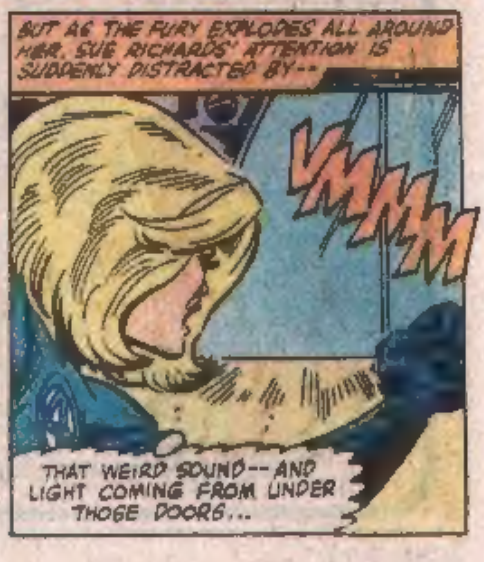
SO, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, PERHAPS I WAS NOT SO WRONG AFTER ALL. YOU ARE THE CAUSE OF THIS STRIFE, PRIMAL ONE--AND YOU ALONE. THE TERRANS DISPLAY COMPASSION--
--AND AN UNWILLINGNESS TO SECURE THEIR VICTORY IN BLOOD.

INDEED--AND IT IS A COMPASSION THE PRIMAL ONE IS FULLY WILLING TO EXPLOIT...
ATTACK THEM, DRONES! YOU MUST OBEY ME!
ATTACK AND KILL THEM ALL!

LIKE PUPPETS, THE DRONES LURCH FORWARD...
WE HEAR, PRIMAL ONE--AND WE OBEY.

HERE WE GO AGAIN, TROOPS--AND THIS IS THE CUTIE-PIE WHO CLAIMS WE'RE TOO WARLIKE TO JOIN HIM AMONG THE STARS!
YOU SAID IT, TORCHIE...


...BUT IF THE DIAMOND-HEAD CREEP INSISTS ON MAKIN' US WARLIKE, LET'S SHOW HIM THAT WAR IS HELL--
--AN' GIVE IT TO HIM IN SPADES!


BUT AS THE FURY EXPLODES ALL AROUND HER, SUE RICHARDS' ATTENTION IS SUDDENLY DISTRACTED BY--
MMMM
THAT WEIRD SOUND--AND LIGHT COMING FROM UNDER THOSE DOORS...

PERHAPS I'D BETTER TURN INVISIBLE AND INVESTIGATE...
THE FOOLS! THEIR MERCY MAY YET PROVIDE THE WAY FOR ME TO STEAL FINAL TRIUMPH!
THUS IT HAS EVER BEEN--THE AGENTS OF GOOD ARE ALWAYS HELPLESS AGAINST THE DECEPTIONS OF EVIL... AND THE COMBINED THREAT OF SCIENCE AND SORCERY.
INDEED--THE SHOGUN WARRIORS ARE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THEIR TRUE ENEMY, THINKING ME DEAD.
EVEN CYMELL WAS DECEIVED BY MY CREATED PERSONA, SHE ALSO THOUGHT ME A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE CHARTER RACES.
BUT SOON THEY SHALL KNOW THE TRUE FACE OF THEIR CONQUEROR! SOON THEY SHALL KNOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEFEATED BY--
--MAUR-KON!!
MAUR-KON--?! LOOK--IN HERE!!
WHAT?! I'VE BEEN DISCOVERED! BUT HOW--?!
NO--! STAY AWAY FROM THOSE CONTROLS, WOMAN!
TOO LATE. SUE CUTS THE POWER.
AND OUTSIDE, THE MASK BEHIND MAUR-KON...
NO!
...BEGINS TO SHIMMER, AND FADE...
NO...!
...FINALLY DISAPPEARING TO A MERE GHOST OF PHOSPHOR DOTS, LINGERING LIKE AN EVIL KISS IN THE AFTERIMAGE OF THE EYE.
AND WITH THE PRIMAL ONE'S EVAPORATION, THE DRONES DROP THEIR WEAPONS TO BECOME AGAIN, AT LAST, THEMSELVES.
WE ARE FREED--FREED OF MAUR-KON'S ENERGY-SPELL!

HEAR US, TERRANS -- WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. LIKE CYMELL, WE INNOCENTLY ANSWERED MAUR-KON'S CALL FOR AID IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHARTER RULES, BELIEVING HIM TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHARTER RACE CALLED THE PRIMAL ONES.
BUT UNLIKE CYMELL, WE WERE LITERALLY ENSLAVED TO HIS WILL.
YOU SEE, IN EONS PAST, BOTH THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT AND MAUR-KON'S AGENTS OF DARKNESS WERE MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER...
"BUT MAUR-KON'S GROUP HAD BEEN BANISHED AND BELIEVED DEAD LONG BEFORE THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION WHICH AWAKENED THEM FROM THE SPELL OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION. *
*SEE ISSUE #1.--LOUISE.
"AGAIN, HE WAS DEFEATED, THIS TIME BY YOU AND YOUR SHOGUN WARRIORS, AND AGAIN HE SEEMED TO DIE.
"BUT IN TRUTH HE SURVIVED, AND USED THE ANCIENT COMMUNICATIONS LINK TO TRANSMIT A CHARTER SUMMONS...
"WE ANSWERED... FALLING INTO HIS TRAP.
"WE CAN ONLY OFFER OUR APOLOGIES FOR WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DO TO YOU... AND OUR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL."
CYMELL SPEAKS...
THEN HIS ENTIRE MOTIVE WAS FALSE. HE DID NOT SEEK TO RETARD EARTH'S TECHNOLOGY. HE MERELY WISHED TO RESUME THE ANCIENT BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL--
--TO TAKE FINAL VENGEANCE ON THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT.
AND YOU WERE BEHIND DR. DEMONICUS, WEREN'T YOU?-- HELPED HIM ESCAPE PRISON, SUPPLIED HIM WITH THAT SPACE STATION...
YES, BUT THE FOOL FAILED-- FORCING ME TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS!
AND NOW YOU'VE FAILED AS WELL, MAUR-KON. TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY.
I SHALL SEE THAT HE IS DEALT WITH, TERRANS-- WHEN I RETURN TO THE CHARTER COUNCIL TO RESIGN MY COMMISSION.
I ENVY YOU, ENVY YOUR ENTIRE RACE. IT'S ALL BEFORE YOU, WAITING TO BE TAKEN, WAITING TO TAKE YOU--OFFERING WONDERS, MIRACLES...
"DO NOT DESTROY IT BEFORE IT CAN BEGIN. PERHAPS IF WE ARE BOTH WISE AND PRUDENT, AND REVERENT OF WONDERS, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...
"...AMONG THE STARS...AT THE HEART OF THE VAST UNKNOWN..."